

**APPROVED 10/17/2007**

Present: Charlie Kimball, Peg Pinkham, Doug McElroy, Pat Martell, Donald Gates, Jr. Andy Kohlhofer, Annmarie Scribner, member of the public, Keith Stanton and Kathy Arsenault.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:07 pm. by Charles Kimball, chair.

Annmarie Scribner handed out NH DOE 25 and the Financial Report for the school, for the committee to review. Annmarie noted that all revenue is recorded and audited in this report. The School District auditors are running late. They are hoping it will be reviewed sometime in Oct. It is possible that the audit report will not be completed and returned (formalized) for school district meeting. Annmarie gave a quick summary of the report as to advise and inform committee members. Discussion followed regarding prior services and current services.

Annmarie Scribner noted that the Food Service revenue (Café Services) has been doing very well. Peg Pinkham informed the committee that this is an outside vendor. Peg Pinkham included that students are happy with the new Food Service, as are most parents. Peg Pinkham noted that past practices (with regard to the food service) were not wrong, but that this vendor is just a better service to the community.

Andy Kohlhofer questioned if the Federal Funds (from the reports) can be broken down. Annmarie Scribner said that she has already done that, but did not have that information with her this evening. She will e-mail to all members who would like to have it. She noted that on the report all budget items are listed as “objects”, and that all salaries are also listed as “objects”. She also explained that a final review of all expenses and budgets were summarized on the last page.

Discussion began from the table with regard to the SAU moving into the new building on Hall Road. Peg Pinkham explained that with the move of the SAU, it has offered Ellis School the opportunity to make some changes. Guidance has moved to the main hall of the Ellis School bldg. Much needed space for special education has been made available. Peg Pinkham added that it is not a lot more, but more nonetheless. With the additional space it has also afforded more privacy for certain circumstances that require it. It has allowed room for a small conference room as well. The health program is no longer on the “cart”, as it is now in a portable. Art has moved back into the building from a portable, where it can now have running water, etc.

Discussion continued with regard to the SAU in the new building. Annmarie Scribner noted that many groups within town are using it as well. The conference room has been used by special education, PTA, etc.

Annmarie informed the committee that the SAU and Ellis School budget is all one, and that it is a working budget. She stated that the goal of the SAU is to stay within budget. All measures are being made to stay within the budget. They are making adjustments to stay within the budget, but to also accommodate the new bldg. Annmarie noted that they are over the present budget by an estimated \$15,000.00 (this includes plumbing, heat, rent, etc. for the new SAU space). She

noted that although they are over budget at this time, it overall has been a plus moving the SAU out of the Ellis School.

Peg Pinkham stated that Annmarie Scribner over the past few years has done a great job as the Business Administrator for the SAU. Pinkham also noted that not having the privacy and the space needed to address certain issues could also be questioned by law.

Mike Nygren joined the mtg. @7:26.

Discussion continued with regard to the moving of the SAU and the additional space it has allowed the Ellis School. Pinkham added that it has been positive move and has also allowed us to meet certain regulations (with regard to space and privacy). She stated that we (the School Board) always try to adhere to our budget and our guidelines.

Peter Bearse joined the mtg. @ 7:28.

Andy Kohlhofer questioned what line items do you take the money from to pay for this new SAU space. Peg Pinkham answered that a proposed budget is usually an estimate. Annmarie Scribner answered that they haven't found the money yet. They haven't taken any money yet, as it is early in the year. She added that they would complete the appropriate forms and approve them thru the Superintendent. Approval is needed to take from one line item and put into another. Annmarie also added that they know that they have to come up with the money and they will try to find it within the budget.

Andy Kohlhofer asked where have they found the \$1838.00 per month (which inc. rent, heat, etc.) since July. If the SAU has been there since then, where have you found the money to pay for it? Annmarie answered that the rent is being paid out of the rent line.

Andy Kohlhofer questioned why it is that when the SAU presented its budget; it wasn't noted about renting office space for \$1838.00 per month. Peg Pinkham corrected Andy Kohlhofer that it was the School Board presenting the budget not the SAU. She stated that there are many items considered within proposing budgets, they try to stay to the line, but things do change. They did not enter it with a decision to rent outside space.

Peter Bearse asked for someone to answer Andy's question as to where is the money coming from to pay for the new office space. Annmarie Scribner answered that we don't know yet. Peg Pinkham stated that every year money has been returned to the taxpayers. Peg Pinkham stated that they need to address needs as needs be. She added that perhaps come January, that they would have better answers. Annmarie Scribner stated that as of now they have taken money out of the SAU budget for rent and that she is making adjustments to her 2320 to make the monthly payments.

Annmarie Scribner said to Andy Kohlhofer that she has debited money from the SAU budget. She also noted that so far nothing has gone into deficit by doing this. Andy Kohlhofer asked if they overspend on their budget do they have to get approval for it. Annmarie Scribner answered that yes they do.

Annmarie Scribner stated that she does do a monthly Financial Report. The report shows and will show every line item for the Budget Committee to monitor on a monthly basis. That way if anyone has any questions, members can contact her by phone or email.

Andy Kohlhofer would like to talk about other school issues. Andy Kohlhofer offered that he believed that there was motion out of order from the last school district meeting. Specifically with reference to the \$68,000.00 for the Gifted and Talent Program. Kohlhofer would like for the issue to be brought to the DRA for review. He believes that there is question of the legality of this and the process that took place at School District Mtg.

Peg Pinkham asked if this issue had been brought up to the School Board. Andy Kohlhofer said that no, it hadn't, he is asking that the Budget Committee appeal the last expenditure, and whether it is in fact a legal expenditure. Peg asked where the legal council would come from, and whether or not it should be the town's attorney. Don Gates stated that you just submit your request to the DRA and that it shouldn't have to be a need for attorneys.

Andy Kohlhofer made reference to a State Statute, raising questions as to whether this was legal practice regarding the warrant for the school budget. He wants the Budget Committee to submit the issue to the DRA for review and to question the legality of it. Don Gates agreed that this process should go through the Budget Committee. Discussion from the table continued at length regarding the process of the budgets and how you can only add or subtract from line items, not the bottom line.

Andy Kohlhofer moved that the Fremont Budget Committee draft and submit a letter to the DRA to question the legality of the motion to add to the bottom line of the School District Budget (School District Meeting Mar. 10, 2007). Don Gates seconded the motion, majority approved.

Andy Kohlhofer questioned when was the Collective Bargaining Agreement submitted to the Budget Committee and was it done in the proper timely fashion? Mike Nygren said that it was. Andy Kohlhofer asked to check the date to confirm. He also asked when where warrant articles due. Annmarie Scribner stated that they were due Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> by 5pm. Andy would still like to verify when it was submitted. Charlie Kimball said that it was, Mike Nygren added that he believes that it was in by Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Peg Pinkham added that we had met our timeline for collective bargaining.

Andy Kohlhofer asked if the co-op with Kingston is "dead". Peg Pinkham answered that they are not stating that it is dead, and that their heart is still in it. As far as other cooperative study committees, Kingston is it. She added that a new voting year may point us in new directions and that it all comes down to community need. Peg Pinkham noted that she is not the representative for the cooperative study committee, she is just reporting for them, as school board member. Discussions continued regarding the cooperative study committee.

Peter Bearse raised his concerns for the cooperative district. He questioned, with regard to the SAU 14, about the withdrawals from it and how it all took place. He recalled previous meetings

and minutes and it became clear that different meetings from different times regarding different issues were being discussed. Peg Pinkham took some time to inform Peter as to the history of the SAU 14 and how Fremont evolved out from it. She informed Peter as to the position that Fremont was in with other towns trying to move in different directions. Both Chester and Epping prior to Fremont's voting, voted to withdraw from SAU 14. This left Fremont with making some new choices. Keith Stanton questioned why Fremont didn't just remain SAU 14 if all towns were left alone and seeking other options. Annmarie Scribner stated that Chester had a warrant to withdraw from SAU 14 as had Epping. She added that it was advised by legal council for Fremont to do the same on Fremont's warrant. Peg Pinkham added that we were an SAU without any contracts.

Peter Bearse questioned as to the reason why and how Fremont fell into its own SAU. Mike Nygren reminded Peter that the last meeting he keeps referring to was in Kingston. Confusion between meetings was clarified. Keith Stanton said that he can and will confirm the discussions from the meeting on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and that Peter Bearse is correct. Keith Stanton will bring in videotape from that meeting to the Budget Committee to confirm that discussion regarding the withdrawal of the SAU took place in August.

Peter Bearse then asked for a definition of "impact fees". Annmarie Scribner answered that impact fees are monies that builders pay to the Town which are then used by the School District. She added that Catastrophic Aid is money that is received from the state for special education. Charlie Kimball added that the impact fees do go through the treasurer and have to be used within 10 years.

Andy Kohlhofer asked if the Town could collect impact fees as well. It was discussed that that would have to be determined by the voters.

Annmarie Scribner directed to Peter Bearse that the DOE 25 has all of the details of the SAU's revenue on it.

Mike Nygren asked how many new teachers we have this year, as well as how many new employees. Annmarie Scribner said that she has it at the SAU office. Mike will swing by her office and pick it up. Annmarie noted that the Gifted and Talented teacher is the newest position for curriculum development and implementation for the last half of the year.

Peter Bearse asked Annmarie Scribner where the money came from for the kindergarten busses. Doug McElroy stated that it was voted on and in the budget.

Charlie Kimball called for a break @ 8:15pm.

The meeting was called back to order @ 8:27 pm.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Peg Pinkham to accept the minutes; Andy Kohlhofer seconded it. Majority approved the minutes of August 13, 2007.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peg Pinkham, seconded by Donald Gates. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:32 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Budget Committee is Wednesday, October 17, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Arsenault  
Secretary